

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 00202 131310Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01  
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 HEW-04 AID-05 DHA-02 /037 W  
-----131323Z 029503 /54  
R 131217Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2299  
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 00202

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS:SWEL,ET  
SUBJECT: FREE MEDICAL CARE FOR NEEDY

1. JANUARY 12 ETHIOPIAN HERALD CARRIED REPORT PUBLISHED IN AMHARIC PRESS PREVIOUS DAY QUOTING HEAD OF MEDICAL SERVICES OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH ATO FEKADE TSEGAYE AS STATING FREE MEDICAL CARE WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO NEEDY IN HOSPITALS AND CLINICS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. (AT PRESENT ONLY ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL IN ADDIS ABABA PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE TO NEEDY). FREE MEDICAL CARE PROGRAM WILL APPLY ONLY TO THOSE CERTIFIED AS NEEDY BY THEIR LOCAL PEASANTS' OR KEBELE ASSOCIATIONS. REPORT NOTED THAT SINCE ASSOCIATIONS HAVE CLOSE KNOWLEDGE (SIC) OF RESIDENTS' FINANCIAL POSITION AND HOSPITAL FUNDS INADEQUATE, ASSOCIATIONS WOULD BEAR IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCREENING AND CERTIFYING PATIENTS.

2. HEALTH OFFICIAL SAID HOSPITALS AND CLINICS IN ADDIS ABABA GROUPED INTO THREE MAJOR ZONES TO COORDINATE AND EXTEND EFFICIENCY OF SYSTEM TO PUBLIC. THERE PRESENTLY 83 HOSPITALS (SIC) 106 HEALTH STATIONS, AND 991 CLINICS IN ETHIOPIA, MAJORITY OF WHICH IN ADDIS ABABA, ASMARA, AND HARAR, WHICH INHABITED BY ONLY 5 PERCENT OF ETHIOPIAN POPULATION.

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3. EDITORIAL FOLLOWING DAY RE-EMPHASIZED JANUARY 12 ARTICLE AND CAUTIONED KEBELE AND PEASANTS' ASSOCIATIONS NOT TO ABUSE FREE MEDICAL SERVICE BY MAKING SUBJECTIVE JUDGMENTS AND ISSUING CERTIFICATES TO FRIENDS AND RELATIVES. LENGTHY EDITORIAL NATURALLY PRAISED PROGRAM IN REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC, STATING OPPRESSED MASSES RECEIVING GAINS OF PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION.

4. COMMENT: PROGRAM TO EXTEND SERVICES TO MOST NEEDY FROM  
PROGRAM INVOLVING ONE HOSPITAL IN ADDIS TO NATIONWIDE PROGRAM  
POSITIVE REVOLUTIONARY STEP. PROGRAM APPEARS TO REFLECT PRAGMATIC  
DECISION ON PART OF EPMG TO EXTEND GOVERNMENT BENEFITS  
AT THIS TIME ONLY TO MOST NEEDY IN VIEW ITS EXTREMELY  
LIMITED MEDICAL RESOURCES. EMBASSY ALSO NOTES CERTIFICATION  
OF NEED TO BE DETERMINED BY KEBELE AND PEASANTS' ASSOCIATIONS,  
FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THEIR INCREASING BUREAUCRATIC RESPONSI-  
BILITIES.  
TIENKEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEDICAL CARE, HOSPITALS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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